

Donovan on His Campaign: Attorney for the Defense

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By OLIVER PILAT

As the Democratic-Liberal candidate for U. S. Senator, James Britt Donovan conducted one of the most unorthodox campaigns ever seen in New York State.

His reaction today to his defeat was equally unusual. "Winston Churchill once pointed out that he had lost a series of elections to individuals who have passed into oblivion," he said.

"I'll not pass into oblivion," he added, and it was not entirely clear why. "I'm providing a good account," and defeat still my mind and

Not the Worst

The 46-year-old insurance lawyer, silvery-haired, blue-eyed and flushed of countenance, walked back and forth across his office at 161 William St. as he reviewed the campaign.

The fact that he fell 975,306 votes behind GOP Sen. Javits does not make him the "worst candidate" or even the "worst-defeated candidate" in state history, he said.

If asked to explain his defeat in a telegram of 10 words or less, he said, he would answer: "Lack of time, organization, funds and votes," and have three words to spare.

"Don't forget I received 2,300,000 votes," he continued. "Take a look at the table of votes for Senatorial candidates who won in other states: 9,000 votes in Nevada, 115,000 in Idaho, 160,000 in Rhode Island and so on. Why, you could throw together 15 or 20 of those successful candidates and not get as large a vote as I received."

No Staff

"In a short, seven-week campaign, don't forget I spent almost three weeks in Cuba negotiating for those prisoners."

"Then, Javits had a tremendous staff, whereas I had my partner, Tom Harnett. I wrote all my own stuff until I got too busy to write at all."

"I raised \$35,000 for my campaign, including \$15,000 from my family and myself, whereas of a \$500,000 fund before the campaign started, as he revealed



JAMES B. DONOVAN

Oblivion's not in his cards.

in a letter which by mischance came to me asking for a contribution to his brother's campaign."

Finally, Donovan said, single sentences on medicare and civil rights had been lifted out of context from his informal statements defending President Kennedy's position in those areas. The lifting was done by "Madison Av. trained seals to make him look conservative," he said angrily, looking like a middle-weight boxer about to swing.

Then James Britt Donovan relaxed and smiled.

"Oh, well, it's over," he said. "They told me last July I'd be

a madman to take Javits on, but I didn't realize then I'd be running against a machine, not a man. I got a great deal out of it and I hope that people generally feel it was a vigorous campaign."

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